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### Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic signal recording method in which information is recorded to a magnetic recording medium and read magnetically from the recording medium, said magnetic signal recording method comprising the step of:

recording arbitrary information in a region on ~~a the~~ magnetic recording medium where a coercive force has been varied with local heating, in accordance with a magnetic field from a magnetic recording head,

wherein a positional relationship between a magnetic field distribution and the distribution of a coercive force of the magnetic recording medium is established in such a manner as to generate an edge of a recordable region at a position where a recording magnetic field intensity is lowered at a maximum.

wherein an edge of a recordable region on said magnetic recording medium is located in a position in which substantial equality is attained between (a) a coercive force in the region where the coercive force on said magnetic recording medium has been varied, and (b) magnetic field intensity in an in-track position in which a magnetic field distribution generated by said magnetic recording head is lowered at a greatest rate.

2. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said magnetic recording medium and said magnetic recording head, which records a magnetic bit,

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have a space between themselves in a direction vertical to a film surface of said magnetic recording medium, said space being smaller than a length of the magnetic bit with respect to the track.

3. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said magnetic recording medium has a film thickness thinner than the length of the magnetic bit with respect to the track, where the magnetic bit is recorded by said magnetic recording head.

4. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said magnetic recording head applies and distributes a recording magnetic field in a rectangular shape on said magnetic recording medium.

5. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the edge of the recordable region is positioned in a region where a temperature distribution of a heated magnetic recording medium makes concentric circles.

6. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said magnetic recording medium is a magnetic film whose coercive force is lowered at a greater rate as a temperature rises in a region having a low temperature within a temperature range than a region having a high temperature within the temperature range, where the coercive force and the magnetic field intensity are equal within the temperature range.

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7. (Currently Amended) A magnetic signal recording method in which information is recorded to a magnetic recording medium and read magnetically from the recording medium, said magnetic signal recording method comprising the step of:

recording arbitrary information in a region on ~~a the~~ magnetic recording medium where a coercive force has been varied with local heating, in which a single-magnetic polar head is used as a magnetic recording head,

said magnetic recording medium having an axis of easy magnetization vertical to a film surface of said magnetic recording medium, and said single-magnetic polar head generating a magnetic field that has a component vertical to the film surface, while having a main magnetic pole wider than a track pitch,

wherein during said recording a positional relationship between a magnetic field distribution and the distribution of a coercive force of the magnetic recording medium is established in such a manner as to generate an edge of a recordable region at a position where a recording magnetic field intensity is lowered at a maximum in a trailing edge of the main magnetic pole in the track direction, said component being vertical to the film surface.

wherein an edge of a recordable region on said magnetic recording medium is located in a position where substantial equality is attained between (a) a coercive force in the region where the coercive force on said magnetic recording medium has been varied, and (b) a component of magnetic field intensity of the single-magnetic polar head in a position in which the component is

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~~lowered at a greatest rate in a trailing edge of the main magnetic pole in the track direction, said component being vertical to the film surface;~~

8. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said magnetic recording medium, which has the axis of easy magnetization vertical to the film surface of said magnetic recording medium, includes a soft magnetic layer.

9. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said magnetic recording medium is a magnetic recording medium having high magnetic anisotropy in a vertical direction.

10. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said magnetic recording medium and said magnetic recording head, which records a magnetic bit, have a space between themselves in a direction vertical to a film surface of said magnetic recording medium, said space being smaller than a length of the magnetic bit with respect to the track.

11. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said magnetic recording medium has a film thickness thinner than the length of the magnetic bit with respect to the track, where the magnetic bit is recorded by said magnetic recording head.

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12. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said magnetic recording head applies and distributes a recording magnetic field in a rectangular shape on said magnetic recording medium.

13. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein the edge of the recordable region is positioned in a region where a temperature distribution of a heated magnetic recording medium makes concentric circles.

14. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein said magnetic recording medium is a magnetic film whose coercive force is lowered at a greater rate as a temperature rises in a region having a low temperature within a temperature range than a region having a high temperature within the temperature range, where the coercive force and the magnetic field intensity are equal within the temperature range.

15. (Currently Amended) A magnetic signal recording method in which information is recorded to a magnetic recording medium and read magnetically from the recording medium, said magnetic signal recording method comprising the step of:

recording arbitrary information in a region on ~~a~~ the magnetic recording medium where a coercive force has been varied with local heating in which a ring head is used as a magnetic recording head,

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said magnetic recording medium having an axis of easy magnetization parallel to a film surface of said magnetic recording medium, and said ring head generating a magnetic field having a component parallel to the film surface, while having a ring head recording gap width that is wider than a track pitch,

~~wherein during said recording a positional relationship between a magnetic field distribution and the distribution of a coercive force of the magnetic recording medium is established in such a manner as to generate an edge of a recordable region at a position where a recording magnetic field intensity is lowered at a maximum in a trailing edge of the ring head recording gap in the track direction, said component being parallel to the film surface.~~

~~wherein an edge of a recordable region on said magnetic recording medium is located in a position in which substantial equality is attained between (a) a coercive force in the region where the coercive force on said magnetic recording medium has been varied, and (b) a component of magnetic field intensity of the ring head in a position in which the component is lowered at a greatest rate in a trailing edge of the ring head recording gap in the track direction, said component being parallel to the film surface.~~

16. (Original) The magnetic signal recording method as set forth in Claim 15, wherein said magnetic recording medium is a magnetic recording medium having high magnetic anisotropy in an in-plane direction.

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17. (Currently Amended) A magnetic signal recording method in which information is recorded to a magnetic recording medium and read magnetically from the recording medium, comprising the step of:

recording arbitrary information in a region on a magnetic recording medium where a coercive force has been varied with local heating in which a ring head is used as a magnetic recording head,

said magnetic recording medium having an axis of easy magnetization vertical to a film surface of said magnetic recording medium, and said ring head generating a magnetic field having a component vertical to the film surface, while having a ring head recording gap width that is wider than a track pitch,

wherein during said recording a positional relationship between a magnetic field distribution and the distribution of a coercive force of the magnetic recording medium is established in such a manner as to generate an edge of a recordable region at a position where a recording magnetic field intensity is lowered at a maximum in a vicinity of a position right below a leading edge of the ring head recording gap in the track direction, said component being vertical to the film surface.

wherein an edge of a recordable region on said magnetic recording medium is located in a position in which substantial equality is attained between (a) a coercive force in the region where the coercive force on said magnetic recording medium has been varied, and (b) a component of magnetic field intensity of the ring head in a position in which the component is lowered at a

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~~greatest rate in a vicinity of a position right below a leading edge of the ring head recording gap in the track direction, said component being vertical to the film surface.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A magnetic recording-reproduction apparatus, comprising:  
magnetic signal recording means for recording a magnetic signal in accordance with a magnetic signal recording method; and  
magnetic signal reproduction means for reproducing a magnetic signal recorded in a magnetic recording medium by said magnetic signal recording means,  
said magnetic signal recording method including the step of:  
recording arbitrary information in a region on said magnetic recording medium where a coercive force has been varied with local heating, in accordance with a magnetic field from a magnetic recording head, ~~wherein during said recording of arbitrary information a positional relationship between a magnetic field distribution of the magnetic field and the distribution of a coercive force of the magnetic recording medium is established in such a manner as to generate an edge of a recordable region at a position where a recording magnetic field intensity is lowered at a maximum, wherein an edge of a recordable region on said magnetic recording medium is located in a position in which substantial equality is attained between (a) a coercive force in the region where the coercive force on said magnetic recording medium has been varied, and (b) magnetic field intensity in an in-track position in which a magnetic field distribution generated by said magnetic recording head is lowered at a greatest rate.~~